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## ***West Africa Cotton Improvement Program (WACIP)***

***Program Description  
July 2006***

# WEST AFRICA COTTON IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (WACIP)

## BACKGROUND

Reducing poverty and hunger in West Africa is a key goal of both West Africa and the United States. The United States has strong political, economic, and humanitarian interests in supporting higher agricultural growth in the region. Given the importance of cotton to regional economy, improving cotton production and value added of cotton goods will help reduce poverty and hunger by affecting incomes, and economic growth.

At the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Cotonou, Benin on March 24-25, 2004, the U.S. Government (USG) made a commitment to support efforts of African countries, particularly Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali (collectively known as the “C-4” countries), to increase cotton productivity and participate in world trade. The USG subsequently extended this commitment to include Senegal.

### West Africa: the “C-4” Countries and Senegal



Map courtesy of USAID

### Initial Assessment

As a follow up to the USG WTO commitment, in September-October 2004, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), in cooperation with the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA), completed an assessment of the cotton sector in Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Benin, and met with officials in Senegal. The objective of this assessment was to establish a clear understanding of the current state of cotton production, transformation, and consumption in West Africa, particularly in the C-4. The assessment provided the conceptual and technical foundation for a USG-supported West Africa Cotton Improvement Program (WACIP).

### Workshop

A “West Africa Cotton Improvement Planning Workshop” was held in Cotonou, Benin from January 25-26, 2006. Approximately 30 participants attended, including representatives of West Africa regional organizations, governments and the private sector, as well as staff from USAID, USDA and the National Cotton Council of America (NCC). The objectives of the meeting were threefold: sharing information on constraints and opportunities; identi-

ifying possible areas of WACIP intervention; and eliciting ideas for implementation of the program. Before the meeting, seven areas of intervention were proposed.

### **Post-Workshop Communiqué**

A communiqué summarizing recommendations was issued at the end of the Workshop, which included the addition of two interventions to the seven selected prior to the meeting. The two new recommended areas were improving access and reducing cost of high



Photo credit: R. Faidutti, UN/FAO

*Workers load cotton into a lorry.*

quality inputs; and exploring ways to add value to West African cotton within the region.

In addition, it was recommended that national advisory committees from the C-4 and Senegal guide implementation of WACIP. At the regional level, it was recommended that the national advisory committees be coordinated by an Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional advisory committee responsible for the Agriculture Policy of the ECOWAS.

## **WACIP: PURPOSE, DURATION AND FUNDING**

### **Purpose**

The main purpose of WACIP is to improve yields and incomes of cotton producers by reducing key constraints to development of the cotton sector.

### **Duration**

WACIP is planned as a three-year project. If the project is successful in achieving results and demand exists for its continuation, consideration will be given to extending it by two years to increase sustainability of the interventions.

### **Funding**

The planned USAID funding level for the WACIP is \$27 million. Implementation will be coordinated with other USAID programs such as the African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI) and the Development Credit Authority (DCA).

Given the number of interventions and the fact that five countries will be served, leveraging resources from the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the European Union (EU), the U.S. private sector and universities, and will be crucial to achieving WACIP objectives.

Additionally, under the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), hundreds of millions of grant dollars could flow into selected West African countries (Benin, Mali, and Senegal) on terms defined by each country. These countries have the opportunity to target the cotton sector for assistance.



Cotton being processed in Sgou, Mali, at the Centre de Recherche et de Formation pour l'Industrie Textile (CERTIFEX),

## CONTENT

As per the post-workshop communiqué, nine technical areas of intervention will be covered by WACIP. The nine interventions fall under three themes:

- Cotton Sector Policies and Institutions
- Value Added in Cotton Processing and Transformation
- Cotton Productivity

### Cotton Sector Policies and Institutions:

- Strengthened policy and institutional reform to promote open competition and increased private sector decision-making and ownership of the cotton sector; and

- Improved capacity of a selected number of private cotton producer organizations to better serve their members, understand downstream markets, and competitive business practices, and better manage their own affairs.

### Value Added in Cotton Processing and Transformation:

- Improved quality of cotton lint offered to the global marketplace by better sampling and bale identification in cotton lint, and the use of more reliable instrument-based testing;
- Improved ginning operations resulting in improved market quality of lint, cottonseed, and cotton byproducts; and

- Increased value added to cotton through processing and transformation of cotton into manufactured goods within the region.

### Cotton Productivity:

- Expanded use of good agricultural practices in cotton producing areas, including addressing soil degradation and fertility problems and improving pest management practices;
- Improved access to and quality of inputs (seeds, fertilizer, and chemicals), including reducing cost of inputs;
- Strengthened linkages between selected

U.S. and West African agricultural research organizations and the development of technology applications to meet the needs of the cotton sector; and

- Enhanced capacity to manage the technical issues and establish bio-safety and regulatory procedures for agricultural biotechnology, including biotechnology for Bt cotton.

In order to jump-start WACIP, several activities of up to one year in duration will be implemented using WACIP funds. These near-term activities include:

- Improving the technical, bio-safety and regulatory capacity for biotechnology-Bt Cotton through agriculture environmental studies, educational outreach to farmers on Bt cotton, and policy development training;
- Increasing value added to processing and transformation of cotton into manufactures. An analytical study to synthesize existing reports will be conducted to identify opportunities and constraints for value added in each of the countries;
- Supporting policy and institutional development for private management of the cotton sector by analyzing and documenting the status of the reform process;
- Training and capacity building: (a) training in better classification of seed cotton and lint; (b) training program for ginnerers; and (c) entomology training.

## **Existing WACIP-Related USAID Activities**

USAID is already implementing a number of agriculture development programs that benefit cotton producers. The USAID/West Africa (WA) regional program addresses region-wide obstacles to economic growth and integration in West Africa, and includes activities that benefit C-4 countries and Senegal. Interventions under the Presidential initiatives on



Photo credit: Mercy Corps, courtesy of YaleGlobal Online

*WACIP will help increase rural incomes for individuals like this cotton farmer in Mali.*

trade and on ending hunger in Africa include assistance in agricultural policy; agriculture research coordination; biotechnology and bio-safety; strengthening farmer organizations; and strengthening market information systems.

## **RESULTS**

The anticipated results of the WACIP:

- Improved sales and income for the cotton sector in the assisted West African countries
- Increased yields of the selected cotton producers in West Africa

## MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

The WACIP will be managed by USAID/WA in consultation with USAID/Washington. It will be implemented primarily through a team that will be selected through full and open competition. The team will work with other U.S. entities and African organizations to implement activities under the WACIP. African partners may also be beneficiaries of technical assistance provided under the WACIP.

### *Implementation Plan*

While a set of interventions exist for program implementation, many of the country-specific and regional details still need to be defined.

Accordingly, in the first few months of the WACIP, a detailed Program Implementation Plan will be developed by USAID/WA and the implementation team. The main foci of the Plan will be: (1) specifying activities—country-specific and regional—under each of the interventions; (2) setting priorities among the nine technical interventions and activities under them; (3) identifying of African and U.S. implementing partners for the activities; and (4) establishing a time line for implementation.

USAID/WA and the implementing team will consult with West African beneficiaries and potential partners in the C-4 and Senegal to develop the detailed Program Implementation Plan.

## NEXT STEPS

The set of near term activities to jump start the program should begin during the fourth quarter of FY 2006. USAID/WA will issue a Request for Applications (RFA) during the fourth quarter of FY 2006. In the same quarter, an agreement should be signed with an implementing team. USAID/WA and this team will undertake a rapid reconnaissance and consultation with the C-4 countries and Senegal no later than the first quarter of FY 2007 in order to develop a detailed Program Implementation Plan for country-specific and regional activities.



Photo courtesy of H. Bottenburg, USAID/WA

*Cotton being processed in Sgou, Mali, at the Centre de Recherche et de Formation pour l'Industrie Textile (CERTIFEX),*

Cover photo: Farmers harvesting cotton the Sikasso region of Mali

*Photo credit: Goobie: salimatafofana.blog.com*

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